Amendments To The Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 2, line 16, with the following:

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Some attempts have been made to construct a closable ~~closeable~~ bag with a built-in facility for air removal. For example, Miniea ~~Minica~~, U.S. Pat. 6,045,264, shows a bag having an open top divided into a main opening and a smaller evacuation opening. The latter opening is configured to include a suction conduit for use in removing residual interior air. Strong, U.S. Pat. 5,839,582, shows a bag having a bow-shaped pump chamber with a suction port and a one-way valve. When the bag is closed, the pump chamber can be compressed to push air out through the one-way valve. Herrington, U.S. Pat. 4,532,652, shows an extending portion adhering to a hole in one of the film side panels. Squeezing the bag causes the extending portion to separate from the side panel, permitting air to escape through the hole. Thereafter, the extending portion returns to its position covering the hole, preventing further outflow of interior air.

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Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 15, with the following:

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Figure **1** is a perspective view of the reclosable bag of the present invention with the slider in an intermediate position;

Figure **2** is a perspective view of the reclosable bag of Fig. 1, with the slider in a closed or sealed position;

Figure **3a** is a cross-sectional view of the reclosable bag of Fig. 1, showing the bag in an non-interlocked position;

Figure **3b** is the same view as Fig. 3a, showing the bag in an interlocked

position;

Figure **4** is a cross-sectional view of the slider of the present invention installed in the bag;

Figure **5** is a perspective view of the slider of Fig. 1 showing hidden elements;

Figure **6** is a side view of the slider of Fig. 1, without a handle;

Figure **7a** is a perspective, hidden view of the slider of the present invention showing the opening edge of the slider;

Figure **7b** is the slider of Fig. 7a rotated to show the other side of the slider;

Figure **7c** is the slider of Fig. 7a viewed from the front;

Figure **8a** is a perspective, hidden view of the slider of the present invention showing the closing edge of the slider;

Figure **8b** is the slider of Fig. 8a rotated to show the other side of the slider;

Figure **8c** is is the slider of Fig. 8a viewed from the front;

Figure **9a** is a front view of the closing edge of the slider of Fig. 9, with one side of the slider left blank;

Figure **9b** is the same view as Fig. 9a with the other side of the slider left blank;

Figure **10** is a perspective view of the bag of Fig. 1, showing a suction device in the slider passageway and contents in the bag interior;

Figure **11** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the reclosable bag of the present invention, showing a fixed element and a slider;

Figure **12** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the reclosable bag of the present invention, showing a round commercial drink package; ~~and~~

Figure **13** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the reclosable bag of the present invention, showing a gussetted commercial drink package; and

Figure 14 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the reclosable bag of the present invention.

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Please replace the paragraph starting on page 22, line 26, with the following:

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It can be appreciated that valves are generally configured for installation in a passageway or tube located inside a solid body. Therefore, many types of standard valves are ~~similiarly~~ similarly amenable for installation in the passageway 26 of the present invention, since the passageway 26 is preferably located inside the solid body of the slider 20. A common type of valve suitable for use in the passageway 26 of the present invention is a ball valve, which is generally represented as valve 80 in Fig. 5. As pressure is applied to a ball valve, such as by suction through conduit 74, the ball will rise and open the passageway 26. Another type of valve 80 may be a pinching valve, which would provide access through the passageway upon squeezing or pinching the slider. Similarly, many other types of valves common in industrial and consumer applications may also be used in the present invention. In addition to a ball valve or pinching valve, the valve 80 may be a flapper valve, air valve, or check valve, for example.

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Please replace the paragraph starting on page 24, line 10, with the following:

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It can be appreciated that where the access element 82 is fixed, the use of the passageway 26 to access the bag interior 14 will not be affected by the particular positioning of access element 82 in the bag 10. Accordingly, in a further embodiment the two edges of bag 10 could be two edges of opposed panels 30 and 32 that do not define bag opening 16. This would generally comprise the perimeter of the bag 10 other than that portion occupied by bag opening 16. In Fig. 11, for example, the two edges between which access element 82 could be placed

could be the edges of panels 30 and 32 along closed sides 84 and 86 of bag 10, as shown in Figure 14.

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